

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 SEPTEMBER 1986

Israeli-Egyptian Summit

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres arrived in Alexandria 11 September and began talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jerusalem radio reported. In a statement broadcast by IDF radio prior to his departure, Peres stressed that Israel is determined to promote relations with Egypt, make a sincere effort to broaden the circle of peace, and solve the Palestinian problem. He expressed hope that the meeting with Mubarak will end 4 years of "cold peace" and that Egyptian-Israeli summit meetings will henceforth be a regular occurrence. The prime minister told the Inner Cabinet that he has no intention of departing from the basic guidelines of the National Unity Government and that he will reject any demand that Israel recognize Palestinian self-determination, the radio noted.

The Egyptian information minister announced earlier that the Egyptian Cabinet had unanimously approved the draft arbitral compromise agreement on Tabah, which was then signed by the Egyptian and Israeli delegations, Cairo radio reported. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said the agreement was finalized after the two sides reached agreement on the selection of arbiters and on the Tabah border demarcation issue, and he praised U.S. efforts to bring the two sides closer together, according to MENA. He expressed hope that the agreement will open a "new page" in bilateral relations and that the Mubarak-Peres summit will give impetus to efforts to find a comprehensive and lasting peace. The foreign minister also told the Israeli paper *Yedi'ot Aharonot* that Egypt plans to devote all the discussions to the peace process and that it expects Peres to "respond in kind."

Security forces in Alexandria arrested two Arabs travelling on false Jordanian passports, MENA disclosed, noting that they are being questioned to determine their true identity and their motives for entering the city at this particular time.

Libya-Sudan

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi held talks with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and with the Sudanese State Council headed by Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, SUNA reported. A State Council member stated after the 2-hour meeting that Al-Qadhafi will "open the door" to negotiations with Ethiopia, indicating that this will be linked with current efforts to stop the fighting in southern Sudan.

Al-Qadhafi announced earlier at a rally in Omdurman that he intends to have "direct contact" with Ethiopian leader Haile Mariam Mengistu and with SPLA leader John Garang, JANA reported, and he stressed the need to avoid conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia and to establish an alliance of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Col al-Qadhafi reaffirmed his criticisms of Garang for continuing hostilities in

southern Sudan, though he emphasized that the SPLA leader is a revolutionary who "can never be a reactionary or an agent of imperialism." The reason for Garang's continuation of the war could lie "beyond" his movement, the Libyan leader said. As for the question of Islamic law, Al-Qadhafi expressed the view that Sudan has no need for "amputation of legs and hands or for whipping and the like." He also promised to do his utmost to promote economic revival in Sudan and asserted that his call for Libyan-Sudanese unity is not an "emotional" appeal but is a necessity for the survival of Arab identity in the face of the U.S.-Israeli "anti-Arab nation plan."

In Tripoli, JANA carried a commentary on U.S. "terrorism" by its chief editor, who welcomed U.S. official acknowledgements that Libyan involvement in the Karachi airport hijack cannot be proved. This is a "shift by America from previous positions and a return to its senses recognizing the logic of peace," the editor said, and it "shows that the American Administration has actually begun to see the light of truth based upon its commitment to morality and political principles."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft raided the Tabriz oil refineries 10 September in order to "further destroy this vital facility," the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi planes also attacked an Iranian military camp at Mahabad, the communique said. An Iranian communique reported by IRNA stated that 28 Iranian civilians were killed and 26 others were wounded in Iraqi raids near Mahabad. IRNA also said 20 civilians were injured in the Iraqi raid on Tabriz but claimed that one Iraqi plane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. However, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied that Iraq lost any planes in the Tabriz raid.

In the Gulf, Iraqi aircraft hit a large oil tanker off the Iranian coast, according to an announcement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

The Dubayy paper *Al-Bayan* reported 11 September that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will visit Moscow shortly to explain Iraq's view of the military situation and outline its needs to face "coming military developments, QNA reported.

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad organization issued a statement denying responsibility for kidnapping U.S. citizen Frank Reed and calling on the group which kidnapped him to come forward and assume responsibility for its actions, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The statement was accompanied by a photograph of David Jacobsen, one of the Americans held by Islamic Jihad.

Jerusalem radio reported "serious clashes" between Shi'ite groups and the Army of southern Lebanon (ASL) in the Yatar area 11 September. Beirut radio said that "resistance forces" captured an ASL position.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd has called on Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, and the GCC states to attend a limited Arab summit meeting in Riyadh within 2 months to discuss Arab developments, the Jordanian paper *Akhbar al-Ushu'* reported.

In another development, a Saudi official source cited by SPA denied AFP and REUTER reports that the Kingdom is exceeding its OPEC oil production quota of 4.353 million b/pd.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid held political talks with Cuban President Fidel Castro, who began a working visit to Algeria 10 September, Algiers radio reported.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****South Asia**

Vol VIII No 176

11 September 1986

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i**AFGHANISTAN**

Najibullah Addresses Religious Leaders	C 1
GDR SED Delegation Arrives in Kabul	C 1
Meets PDPA Official	C 1
Visits Islamic Shrines	C 1
Meets With Barialay	C 2
Rebels Reported To Shoot Down 3 Planes [Karachi]	C 2

BANGLADESH

Ershad Says Martial Law to End After Polls [Delhi]	D 1
Opposition To Boycott Presidential Elections [Delhi]	D 1
Government Expresses 'Regret' on UK Visa Stance	D 1
Agreement Signed To Purchase Soviet Sugar	D 1
Foreign Minister Departs To Chair General Assembly	D 1

INDIA

Further Coverage of Ortega Visit	E 1
Cultural Agreement Signed	E 1
Feted by Zail Singh	E 1
Ortega Denies Terrorism Charge	E 1
Confers Award on Gandhi	E 1
Credit Pact Signed; Departs	E 2
'Secret' Report Raps Pakistan's Handling of Hijack [AFP]	E 2
Student Agitation Disrupts Traffic in Karnataka	E 2

PAKISTAN

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Ziaul Haq [23 Aug]	F 1
---	-----

OTHER COUNTRIES**SRI LANKA**

Premadasa Statement to Parliament	G 1
Government Protests Canadian Remarks on Envoy	G 2

IRAN

Further On Protest Letter to U.N. Secretary General	I 1
Bulgarian Minister Confers With Officials	I 1
Discusses Oil With Aqazadeh	I 1
Confirms Trade With Abedi-Ja'fari	I 1
Meets With Musavi	I 1
Seen Off by Zali	I 1
Cabinet Discusses Harare, Gulf War Resolution	I 2
Montazeri Calls on Iraqi Mojahedin To Escalate Fight	I 2
Missile Site Sabotaged	I 2
Further Reports on Combat Operations in War With Iraq	I 2
Communique 2,590	I 2

Iraqi Plane Downed	I 3
Iraqi Ships Fired Upon	I 3
Iraqi Artillery Hits Homes, Hospitals	I 3

Najibullah Addresses Religious Leaders

LD102118 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Excerpts] At the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met members of the Consultative Council of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment, members of the High Council of Ulema and Clergy of the DRA, officials of religious institutions, and a number of respected religious ulema. He spoke with them about the crucial issues of the country's socioeconomic and political life.

The BIA correspondent reports that during his conversation with the ulema and clergy, Comrade Najibullah said:

It is a cause for pride for the PDPA to fight for the implementation of its revolutionary aspirations, which are: securing peace, prosperity, and tranquillity for the toiling people of our country; and the fact that our righteous struggle fully conforms with our Islamic and religious slogan. That is to say, restoration of justice and equality. However, our enemies want to separate the aspirations of the PDPA and the religious and worship affairs. Fortunately, the experience of the time has falsified this wicked plan.

Comrade Najibullah went on:

I say to you with confidence that the PDPA not only respects the sacred religion of Islam but endeavors and will endeavor for its preservation and observance.

We have used and will use all possibilities so that all the religious rituals of our people are performed in a better and more effective manner. Of course, in following a democratic policy in the DRA, we can tell you with courage and pride what actions have been taken by the DRA Government in this area.

With pride and confidence we can say that the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowment and the High Council of Ulema and Clergy not only have been transformed into a center for the attraction and absorption of the country's ulema and clergy but, in the future, will be transformed into a center for the attraction and absorption of ulema and clergy of the countries of the region.

On the basis of its duty and religious obligation, the High Council of Ulema and Clergy so far has spent 270 million afghanis for the renovation of mosques and takyas, 260 million afghanis as assistance to ulema and clergy, 40 million afghanis for the heating and lighting of mosques, 20 million afghanis to subsidize preachers in mosques, and plans 726 million afghanis as a subsidy to hajis and pilgrims; 1,026 mosques have been renovated and 230 new mosques have been built.

On the other hand, the rebels have destroyed 254 mosques and so far have martyred 1,000 ulema and destroyed 60 holy places.

Comrade Najibullah added: We are honored today to be among you — the religious ulema — and to consult with you about the important issues of the country which are under our consideration; and to hear your points of views and suggestions on how to proceed with them.

I want you to express your views now — and you can also hand them in later as an elaboration — about the democratic land reform, the draft constitution of the DRA, the nature of the formation of a scientific and educational Islamic center in Afghanistan, and the further education of the people in the spirit of patriotism on the basis of Islamic and Afghan principles for the speedy achievement of national reconciliation and nationwide peace.

Comrade Najibullah's speech was approved and confirmed by the members of the Consultative Council and by the members of the High Council of Ulema and Clergy.

The BIA correspondent adds that the minister of Islamic affairs and endowment then spoke, and on behalf of all ulema and clergy he assured Comrade Najibullah that they will spare no effort to achieve the lofty objectives of the party and the revolution. [Passage omitted] Continuing their discussion of the issues raised by Comrade Najibullah, the ulema and clergy pledged their views and suggestions in writing and to hand them over later.

Comrade Haydar Mas'ud, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, accompanied Comrade Najibullah on this visit.

GDR SED Delegation Arrives in Kabul

LD070616 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 7 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 6, BAKHTAR — A delegation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Erich Postler, member of the Central Committee of that party, arrived Kabul at the invitation of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, CC.

Meets PDPA Official

LD080627 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 8 Sep 86

[Text] Kabul, September 7, BAKHTAR — Najmoddin Kawiani, secretary of the Central Committee and in charge of the Organizational Department of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, met with the party delegation of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) headed by Erich Postler, member of the Central Committee of that party.

During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual interest. The delegation is here at the invitation of Central Committee of the PDPA.

Visits Islamic Shrines

LD092359 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Sep 86

[Excerpts] Erich Postler, member of the SED Central Committee is at the head of a delegation that is visiting Kabul at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee. Today the delegation visited Mazar-e Sharif City and historic spots in Balkh District, Balkh Province. [Passage omitted]

According to another report, Erich Postler and his delegation, accompanied by party and government officials of Balkh, visited the holy shrine of His Eminence 'Ali — may God honor him — and the grand mosque of the holy shrine. They met with the ulema and clergymen of Mazar-e Sharif in the holy shrine.

Meets With Barialay

*LD101452 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT
10 Sep 86*

[Text] Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee met in his office

today with the head of the SED Central Committee delegation Erich Postler. Topics of mutual interest were discussed at the meeting.

Rebels Reported To Shoot Down 3 Planes

*BK111024 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT
11 Sep 86*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say Afghan mujahidin inflicted heavy losses on Soviet-Kabul troops and shot down their [as heard] three fighter planes during clashes in (Somali). A number of Afghan mujahidin and civilians were killed in the clashes.

Ershad Says Martial Law to End After Polls

*BK050943 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
5 Sep 86*

[Text] President General Ershad of Bangladesh has said that the 4 and 1/2 year-old martial law will be lifted after the presidential poll scheduled for October the 15th. Speaking in Dhaka, he confirmed that he will be a candidate for the office. Mr Ershad admitted that the ruling Jatiya Party, with 210 members is still short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification. But he said he will be able to muster support from other groups in the House once he is elected president. He said he would not shift the date of the polls even if the opposition boycotts the election.

Opposition To Boycott Presidential Elections

*BK071639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
7 Sep 86*

[Text] In Bangladesh, several political parties have decided to boycott next month's presidential elections. These are the 5 breakaway parties of the former 15-party opposition alliance and the Jamaat-e Islami. These parties are of the opinion that the presidential poll will not be free and fair because of the continuation of martial law. They have called for a mass movement to realize their demands for holding a free and fair election under the supervision of impartial government. They also called for cancellation of the parliamentary elections held in May last.

Government Expresses 'Regret' on UK Visa Stance

*BK031553 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
3 Sep 86*

[Text] The government has expressed regret over Britain's decision to impose visa requirements on Bangladesh citizens. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today Britain took the decision outside the informal process consultation between the two governments. However, considering the traditional bonds of friendship, the government is ready to discuss with the British Government all aspects of visa requirements.

Agreement Signed To Purchase Soviet Sugar

*BK031601 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
3 Sep 86*

[Text] Bangladesh is importing 7,000 tons of sugar from the Soviet Union this year. An agreement to this effect was signed in Dhaka today. The sugar is expected to start reaching the country by the middle of next month.

Foreign Minister Departs To Chair General Assembly

*BK081614 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
8 Sep 86*

[Text] The foreign minister left Dhaka tonight for New York. Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, will assume the presidency of the General Assembly on the 15th of this month.

Further Coverage of Ortega Visit**Cultural Agreement Signed**

*BK091656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
9 Sep 86*

[Excerpt] In New Delhi today, India and Nicaragua signed a cultural agreement for wide-ranging exchanges in the fields of culture, art, education, broadcasting, television, youth activities, and sports. The agreement, which is for 5 years, was initiated at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] by the external affairs minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, and the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Mr Miguel D'Escoto Brockman. The Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, were present at the signing ceremony. The agreement provides for writers, artists, and artisans undertaking visits and study tours to each other's countries. The two countries also agreed to cooperate in education by translating and publishing outstanding literary and artistic works. There will also be exchanges in sports.

Earlier, Mr Rajiv Gandhi called on President Ortega and had talks with him. The two had met recently at Harare. President Ortega also called on Giani Zail Singh. They were together for about 1/2 an hour. The president is giving a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary tonight. [Passage omitted on his arrival]

Feted by Zail Singh

*BK100411 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
10 Sep 86*

[Text] India has called for negotiations to achieve a just and lasting settlement to the problem facing Central America without driving the region into East-West bloc rivalry. Speaking at a banquet in honor of the visiting Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega, in New Delhi last night, the president, Giani Zail Singh, deplored all outside interventions in the region. He reiterated India's full support to the Contadora Group to achieve lasting peace and stability in the area. He said Central America is passing through profound political and social change. It is a great mistake to interpret these historical changes as inspired by a foreign power, ideology, or intrigue. Imposing outside interference to resist such changes is a violation of international law. Giani Zail Singh said it must be recognized that the impulse for change comes from people who want to free themselves from oppression and outdated values.

On bilateral relations, the president said though situated at opposite ends of the globe, India and Nicaragua enjoy close and friendly relations. He said it is our desire to further strengthen these ties based on the concept of South-South cooperation.

Ortega Denies Terrorism Charge

*BK101556 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
10 Sep 86*

[Text] The Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega, said his talks with Indian leaders have led to an agreement for bilateral cooperation in a number of fields, particularly commercial, eco-

nomic and cultural. He was addressing a news conference in New Delhi today. Mr Ortega is leaving for Beijing tomorrow morning at the end of his official visit to India. Expressing deep satisfaction at the outcome of his visit, he said we are leaving with a feeling that relations between our two countries have been greatly strengthened. He said he is happy at the prospect of cooperation with India as it will enable Nicaragua to continue with its programs in education, social development and other areas.

In his opening statement, Mr Ortega disclosed that Nicaragua's ambassador in Washington had been told by the State Department today that it had information about plans being drawn up in his country to carry out attacks against U.S. embassies in Latin America. The ambassador was told that the United States will hold Nicaragua responsible if any such attacks are carried out. Mr. Ortega described the charge as an attempt by the United States Government to create a new basis for what he called further aggression against Nicaragua. He categorically denied the U.S. allegation and said Nicaragua is totally hostile to any policy of terrorism. We are willing to have talks with the United States Government for a responsible agreement on a fair basis. The entire international community is with Nicaragua. No country supports U.S. policies toward us. This is also borne out by the judgment of the International Court of Justice, which has ruled that the United States has violated international law by supporting the Contras. Mr. Ortega reiterated that the United States is interfering in his country's internal affairs and encouraging terrorists acts leading to a serious situation.

Confers Award on Gandhi

*BK101108 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
10 Sep 86*

[Text] Nicaragua today conferred its highest award, the Augusto Cesar Sandino Order, on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. A medal and its scroll were presented to Mr Gandhi by the visiting Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega, at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of a distinguished gathering. The Nicaraguan foreign affairs minister, Mr D'Escoto, read the citation, which commended the extraordinary work done by Mr Rajiv Gandhi as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. It said Mr Gandhi has become one of the staunchest defenders of the objectives that govern the movement, especially the struggle against racism, apartheid, imperialism, and all forms of foreign aggression and domination. The citation highlighted Mr Gandhi's meritorious work as a statesman and selfless defender of world peace, disarmament, human dignity, and human rights. It made a special mention of India's support to the right of self-determination of the Nicaraguan people.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi is the sixth recipient of this award, instituted in October 1981, 2 years after independence of Nicaragua. Other leaders who had been honored with the award are the Cuban president, Mr Fidel Castro; the former Mexican president, Mr Jose Lopez Portillo; the Zimbabwe prime minister, Mr Robert Mugabe; the international (?poet) priest, Ernesto Cardinal of Nicaragua; and the former Costa Rican president, Mr Jose Figueres.

Credit Pact Signed; Departs

BK110933 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT
11 Sep 86

[Text] India and Nicaragua today signed a credit agreement. Under this, India is to give a long-term credit worth about 125 million rupees for buying Indian goods and services. The 15-year agreement allows Nicaragua to buy machinery, engineering goods, pharmaceutical items, and consultancy services on easier terms. It was signed by the foreign trade minister of Nicaragua, Mr Alejandro Martinez and the minister of state for finance, Mr Janardhan Pujari, at Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning. The Nicaraguan president, Mr Daniel Ortega, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, were present on the occasion.

Later, Mr Ortega left New Delhi for Beijing after a 3-day stay in the capital. The president, Giani Zail Singh, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, gave him an affectionate send off.

'Secret' Report Raps Pakistan's Handling of Hijack

BK110535 Hong Kong AFP in English 0514 GMT 11 Sep 86

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 11 (AFP) — Pakistan's handling of the hijack of a Pan American jumbo jet in Karachi is heavily censured in a secret official report to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, newspapers said here Thursday.

India has formally expressed its displeasure to Pakistan over the handling of the tragedy which left 21 people dead and around 80 seriously injured, the *Indian Express* said, quoting highly-placed sources.

The seizure of the plane with some 400 passengers on board on Friday was by four "local criminals", according to the report, and the Pakistani commando action on Saturday was a "farce", the newspaper said.

The report, presented to Mr Gandhi by Civil Aviation Minister Jagdish Tytler, stated that Pakistani commandoes did not intervene until after the hijackers opened fire.

Contradictory statements from Pakistan on the timing of the action, the death of one hijacker who was then said to be alive, and the failure to explain how the hijackers entered the airport are all slammed in the report, the *Express* said.

Mr Gandhi, who has already hit out at Pakistan's handling of the hijack, despatched Mr Tytler to Karachi to aid wounded Indian passengers.

No confirmation of the report was immediately available.

The aircraft was seized during a stopover in Karachi and was on a scheduled run from Bombay to New York via Karachi and Frankfurt.

"In his eight-page report, Mr Tytler has given a graphic account of the entire episode as gathered from passengers and Pakistani officials," the *Express* said.

The report said Pakistani authorities had yet to trace the driver of a Suzuki van which the hijackers bought in Karachi.

The hijackers stayed in a Karachi hotel where they paid for 19 days accommodation and had security uniforms tailored locally, according to the report.

The report also underlined the aircraft's power failure, which led the hijackers to fire on passengers.

The *Times of India* newspaper criticised Pakistan for an apparent "reluctance" to fight terrorism and a lack of professionalism in tackling the hijack.

It said there had been no serious attempt to wear down the hijackers in negotiations or supply the aircraft with a fresh Pan Am crew, nor were the hijackers warned about the impending power failure.

Mr Gandhi immediately blamed the Pakistani authorities for bungling the hijacking and criticised Pakistan on Saturday at a press conference in Harare where the recent non-aligned summit was taking place.

Student Agitation Disrupts Traffic in Karnataka

BK100345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
10 Sep 86

[Text] In Karnataka, the agitation against the report of the Backward Classes Commission has taken a new turn with the commencement of fast by the Janata [Party] member of parliament, Mr Shankara Gowda at Madya this morning. He appealed to the students community to give up their agitation and rasta roko [block the road movement] against the Backward Classes Commission report.

Traffic between Bangalore and Mysore has come to a standstill for the last 2 days as a result of rasta roko by the agitators. The railway traffic between Mysore and Bangalore is also disrupted.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Interviews Ziaul Haq
PM051342 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
 23 Aug 86 pp 1,2

[Interview with Pakistani President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq by Rifqi al-Tayyib and Muhammad Ibrahim in Jeddah; date not given]

[Text] Following is the text of the interview with the Pakistani president:

[Question] What is your assessment of the progress of the relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan?

[Ziaul Haq] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are tied by the immortal bond of Islam, and is there no greater bond than Islam! The relations are not confined to mutual respect, love and appreciation between the two governments, but are also the same between the two peoples who harbor full love and respect for each other. The Pakistani people harbor for their fraternal Saudi people, who reciprocate the same sentiment, special love and great appreciation.

I have felt in the past 10 years during which I have held the reins of government in Pakistan a real desire on the part of both sides to cement the educational, scientific, technological, commercial and other relations and that the relations between Riyadh and Islamabad are not just ordinary relations between two Muslim states but something much greater. Constant efforts are made by both sides to transform Saudi-Pakistani relations into model relations in the Islamic world.

Pilgrimage Facilities

[Question] What are your observations on the arrangements and the facilities offered during this year's pilgrimage season by the government of the servant of the two venerable holy Places?

[Ziaul Haq] I have had the honor to be familiar with the steps taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to facilitate the pilgrimage. I say here loudly that these measures and facilities have surpassed my expectations. I have had the opportunity to discuss this matter with King Fahd, Crown Prince 'Abdallah and Minister of Interior Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. I am glad to note that they are fully aware of this fact and have even asserted that greater facilities will be offered God's guests every year.

Compared with what I saw in 1978, these facilities are huge and amazing. I am speaking here of the facilities provided for the comfort of the ordinary pilgrim so that he may perform the rites of the fifth mainstay of Islam with ease and facility. I must note that all the essential materials have been supplied in vast quantities. Even water and ice have been supplied to the pilgrims free of charge as a pure gift for God's sake from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the servant of the two Holy Places.

I am confident that the Saudi Government will, as the Saudi officials have assured me, continue to improve the measures and the facilities offered the pilgrims year after year. All the pilgrims have to do is devote themselves to worship and to imploring God for themselves and for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has spared no effort in working for their comfort and security.

Afghanistan Problem

[Question] How do you view the possibilities of a political solution to the Afghan problem? What is the outcome of the indirect talks with the Kabul regime under the auspices of the United Nations?

[Ziaul Haq] I am not fully familiar with what took place in the latest round of talks because, as you know, I came to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform the pilgrimage. The minister of foreign affairs returned to the country in my absence. But I can say that these talks have constituted a step forward and that the criterion of the success of the indirect talks is not in their results but in their continuation.

I may sound sentimental here. But isn't sentiment a part of the human nature? I believe that the Afghan people who have never been subjected to oppression or colonization throughout their history will never succumb to the occupation. I am also convinced that the material and human losses to which the Soviets are subjected will sooner or later lead them to reach political agreements with the Afghan people.

The Afghan problem cannot be solved militarily. Therefore, there is no alternative to the political solution which ordinarily takes some time. But this is the sacrifice we must make. The solution will inevitably come. This is my personal conviction.

[Question] Have you felt any real desire on the part of the Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan?

[Ziaul Haq] Never. As for the Soviet's latest announcement that they will withdraw nearly 10,000 troops, it is no more than a smokescreen intended to "throw dust in our eyes."

If the Soviet union is seriously interested, then it has to withdraw — not just withdraw large number of troops but draw up a timetable for withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan at the earliest date possible.

Against Direct Talks

[Question] Some Pakistani political leaders, including Fakhr Imam, a former prime minister and Parliament speaker, have demanded direct talks with Kabul. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Answer] I have not personally read or heard that Fakhr Imam has demanded direct talks. When he was the parliamentary speaker, he supported the government policy on indirect talks with the Afghan Government. But there are always two viewpoints on every problems. I am not referring here to Fakhr Imam but speaking generally.

I do not deny that we have among us some individuals who support Moscow and Kabul and who will continue to demand direct talks with the Afghan Government. But this demand will lead nowhere as long as the majority of the Pakistani people support the government. The policies which the government has continued to embrace since 1979 have enjoyed the Pakistani people's full support. The proof of this is that the recently-elected parliament has approved the government policy on indirect talks and has supported the Afghan refugees living among us, as well as our relationship with the Soviet Union. Thus, then the the few opposition voices become insignificant.

Iraq-Iran War

[Question] Pakistan has been and continues to be an active member of the Islamic Peace Committee seeking to settle the Iraq-Iran conflict. Do you see an imminent solution to this tragic conflict?

[Ziaul Haq] There is nothing we can do but pray because all the endeavors made by Pakistan, the Islamic countries, the Arab countries, the United Nations and the nonaligned group have failed. We hope that God, may He be praised, will answer our prayers.

[Question] What are the difficulties that have prevented the committee from achieving positive results? Does the committee have any plans to resume its efforts, especially since it has not met for over a year?

[Ziaul Haq] The committee is still active. It has decided that if it has to work, then it must do so positively so that the desired results may be achieved. As members, we continue to exchange opinions and consultation and are in contact with the committee chairman, Gambian President Dawda Jawara, whom I have met during this year's pilgrimage. He is thinking of convening the committee, perhaps in the near future, to analyze and assess the situation with the aim of studying what the committee can do.

Fes Plan

[Question] The Palestinian people have continued to suffer under the Zionist occupation for more than 38 years during which Jerusalem, with all the weight it represents in Islam's history, has fallen. How do you see the ideal approach to confronting the Zionist aggression and regaining the usurped Islamic sanctities?

[Ziaul Haq] By uniting the efforts and eliminating the injustice done the Palestinian people. I hope that the Arab and Islamic countries will discuss the peace plans, especially since there is a great plan embodied in the Arab peace plan presented by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

I believe that this plan is practical and realistic. The Arab nation adopted it at the 12th Arab Summit in Fes and the Islamic nation embraced it at the 4th Islamic Summit, held in Casablanca, as an Islamic peace plan for solving the Palestinian issue on just and legitimate bases compatible with the will of the world community. There is no alternative to clinging to this plan. The Arab and Islamic nation can also think of other efforts that enable the Palestinian people to regain their usurped rights. As a man of peace, I believe in the need to tackle the problem peacefully. I am also convinced that the tribulation to which the Palestinian people have been subjected is unprecedented in history and that the Palestinian people's rights must be restored by giving them the right to self-determination. They [Arabs and Muslims] must discuss the means and methods that make it possible to solve the issue politically, not militarily. This can be achieved through comprehensive plans, such as the Arab Peace plan.

[Question] There is no doubt that the single Islamic body dictates that we feel the pains and hopes of every part in it. Pakistan, with its distinguished Islamic weight, represents a force for Islam and the Muslims. Recent news reports say that incidents occurred there in the wake of the arrest of the opposition leaders on 14 August.

We hope you will shed light on these incidents. Are you going to take legal steps against the detained opposition leaders or are you going to release them?

[Ziaul Haq] I wish to clarify some points here. We have a strong government in Pakistan under the chairmanship of the prime minister who is the top executive official. The powers of the head of state are now limited even though he is still the same Ziaul Haq who enjoyed absolute powers before the state of emergency was lifted last December. Since the elections and the transfer of power to the civilians, the power has been in the government's hands. While I am present here now, some people continue to believe that everything in Pakistan takes place according to my instructions. But it is not so.

The second point is that the government adopted a number of measures on 14 August. I believe that it studied all the possibilities and made the right decisions.

There is a third point which concerns the importance of education to the survival of democracy. If democracy is the rule of the majority, then how can the government in a country like Pakistan, where the illiteracy rate amounts to 83 percent, run the country's affairs in the presence of an uneducated majority? An uneducated majority is always susceptible to the maneuvers of irresponsible politicians.

Moreover, politics, whether in the United States or Pakistan, means attaining power. After long experience, the Western countries have established laws regulating politics. If one wants to play soccer, one plays it according to the soccer rules and nobody gets hurt in this case. But in the developing countries, we have not established such laws yet. We want to play soccer with the rules of cricket or of hockey. How can one play in the absence of laws and regulations?

Finally, we should not forget that politics is the game of attaining power. In the third world, every politician wants to attain power.

Benazir Is in Hurry

Benazir Bhutto wants to attain power without observing the rules or the laws. She has to wait for 5 years and it seems that she is in a hurry and wants to be the head of state or the prime minister. But she will not attain this goal her way because we insist that she abide by the laws. The general elections will not be held before 1990, unless the government decides otherwise. If we submit to the wish of every opposition politician and hold elections every year, how can the state affairs be run?

We held general elections in 1985 and the voting rate amounted to 67 percent. This is the highest voting rate in the world. It is true that the elections were not held on a partisan basis. But this is not important. What is important in this case is the percentage of the masses who voted and brought in elected representatives. It is not my fault that the opponents did not take part in the elections. It is their fault and they must pay the price. By this, I mean that they have to wait until 1990.

The unrest currently experienced by the country is the result of lifting the state of emergency, thus making everybody free. Benazir Bhutto wants to exploit this situation and seek a suitable opportunity.

The 14th of August is Independence Day. The prime minister appealed to the nation not to hold meetings or stage demonstrations, telling the people they could do so on the following day, if they so wished. But Benazir Bhutto did not comply. We have a law which empowers a judge or a district official to ban public meetings in case any unrest is expected. She defied this law. A politician who defies the law commits an irresponsible act. As a result, there have been some troubles which, God willing, will disappear in 1, 2 or 3 weeks.

Benazir Bhutto must learn to act responsibly and to observe the laws and regulations which state that there will be no elections prior to 1990.

[Question] Will Benazir Bhutto be brought before the courts with the other political detainees?

[Ziaul Haq] In any civilized country, if a person, big or small, breaches the law, he must be punished.

[Question] Isn't there a possibility that the general elections will be held before their scheduled date of 1990?

[Ziaul Haq] I don't think so. But if the government and the parliament decide to hold the elections tomorrow, then I will not say anything. However, I don't think that the government or the parliament will demand this because elections are a hard test to which no one wants to subject himself unnecessarily.

Propaganda Exaggeration

[Question] How serious are these incidents and do you think that they may lead to shaking the country's security and stability?

[Ziaul Haq] There is no doubt that any incidents involving acts of violence and violation of the laws are detrimental to any country. But the foreign media have depicted the incidents in Pakistan with excessive exaggeration. The truth is that the situation is bad in some provinces where the demonstrators burned down railroad stations and police posts.

As for the country as a whole, the situation is not so ugly. I have not received any reports from Pakistan but what *Arab News* reports today, Thursday, indicates that everything will be fine.

[Question] Your retaining the position of chief of staff has evoked the criticism of some western papers, what is your comment?

[Ziaul Haq] This is a temporary situation. These fears are created by the opposition leaders. In the Third World, power is in the hands of the organized institutions. Whereas the political parties and the cultural institutions are disorganized, we find that the military establishment is very well-organized. Thus, the opposition leaders have begun to arouse the fears that if this man — Ziaul Haq — continues to be the head of state while supported by the Armed Forces, then we will not be able to oust him and get rid of him. My retaining this position has harmed nobody. It has just been used as a pretext by the opposition leaders. As I have noted, this is a temporary situation.

Islamic Shari'a

[Question] Lately, the Pakistani Parliament began debating the Islamic Shari'a bill. Do you think this bill will be passed and will become a binding law? When do you expect this?

[Ziaul Haq] Soon. However, this bill has been misunderstood in numerous countries. The fact is that the Pakistani Constitution

states clearly that Islam is the state's official religion. Recently, the government introduced amendments to the constitution to prevent the presence of any law conflicting with the Islamic Shari'a. A number of senate members have submitted a draft resolution demanding that some laws be made compatible with the Shari'a. This is what the Parliament is currently debating. So, the issue does not concern application of the Shari'a which was decided long ago and was approved by the parliament.

[Question] What are the steps the Pakistani Government has taken so far to apply the Shari'a to the various aspects of life?

[Ziaul Haq] Ninety five percent of the laws have been amended to be made compatible with the Islamic Shari'a. We have begun to apply the Shari'a penalties and have adopted the Islamic Shari'a. We have begun to apply the Shari'a penalties and have adopted the Islamic economic system, thus preventing usurious interest by the banks. We have accomplished a lot. But as a system of life, Islam requires a long time to achieve.

[Question] There are intensifying demands for speeding up the return of the (Bihari) people from Dhaka. What has delayed their return so far and when do you think they will return to Pakistan?

[Ziaul Haq] I wish to inform you that the Pakistani Government views this situation with full sympathy. This problem has two sides. A moral side and a humanitarian one. We are in contact with the Islamic World League which is trying to provide the material resources to move and transport the Pakistanis who have been temporarily in Dhaka for a long time. They do not call themselves (Biharis) or speakers of Urdu, but "temporary" Pakistanis. We are proud of them and we bear them full love and respect. With the help of the Islamic World League and of some of the Islamic countries, we hope to secure the sums of money needed to carry out this big project. The league is doing great work and we wish it success in this noble endeavor.

Relations with India

[Question] How do you view your country's relations with India?

[Ziaul Haq] We have tried to improve the relations. But India and Pakistan have a long history of ups and downs. This requires the presence of big hearts that forget the past wounds, emotions, and misunderstanding. When such elements existed at times, our relations began to improve. An example of this is the visit I paid to India in December 1985.

The Pakistani Government makes the efforts to improve its relations with India. We hope India will reciprocate with similar steps.

[Question] The Indian Government has repeatedly accused Pakistan of supporting the Sikhs who are demanding the establishment of their independent state. Do you think that this accusation is what has obstructed normalization of the relations between Islamabad and New Delhi, and how?

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan does not support the Sikhs politically because we believe that this is an internal Indian problem. What is happening between the two sides is their own affair and we have nothing to do with it. We do not intervene in any country's internal affairs. We have informed the Indian Government of this.

[Question] Some doubts have been raised in India and in a number of Western countries over the intentions behind Pakistan's nuclear energy production. What is your comment on this?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes, there are actually suspicions regarding Pakistan's nuclear program for peaceful purposes. India and some other countries view this project as a project with military tendencies. But Pakistan will not abandon its efforts to obtain nuclear power to use for peaceful purposes. If India calls its nuclear tests peaceful programs, then it has no right to question

Pakistan or to raise suspicions on Pakistan's modest experimental program to obtain nuclear energy.

We have submitted to India six proposals to stop the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to turn Southeast Asia into an area free of nuclear weapons, to insure that the search for nuclear energy in both countries is carried out solely for peaceful purposes, and to discuss this issue bilaterally or by way of the United Nations or the international agencies. But India has not responded so far.

SRI LANKA

Premadasa Statement to Parliament

BK091031 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1000 GMT
9 Sep 86

["Full Text" of Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa 9 September statement to Parliament on discussions held with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Harare, Zimbabwe — "OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 9 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has assured Sri Lanka of his help to solve the country's (ethnic) problem, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa said in a statement he made to Parliament here today.

The Indian leader had declared his willingness to help Sri Lanka in regard to her present problem.

Rajiv Gandhi had been misled by some interested party.

When the Sri Lankan prime minister first met the Indian prime minister in Harare Mr Gandhi had asked whether the Sri Lanka Government was reneging on the proposals it had announced.

The Indian prime minister had heard the Sri Lankan Government was not willing to implement decisions taken at discussions with political parties, including the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF).

From Harare, the Sri Lankan prime minister had spoken to President Junius Jayewardene to find out the facts.

The Sri Lankan president had said the proposals of the government were discussed not only with the TULF, but all political parties and there would be no change in the understanding reached.

Here is the fully text of Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa's statement to Parliament today:

I had discussions with the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, while we were in Harare. To begin with, let me tell you one thing. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has declared his willingness to help our country in regard to our present problem. In fact, even when we met in New York in October last year, I remember how he offered to help. Similarly, on this occasion too, he assured his help to us in every way, to solve this problem.

As soon as we first met, Shri Rajiv Gandhi asked me whether we are going back on the proposals that have been announced by the government. You know our president and certain ministers had discussions with the political parties including the TULF. The Indian premier had heard that our government was not willing to implement the decisions taken at these discussions.

So, from Harare, I spoke to our president, to find out the facts. The president told me that the proposals of the government were

discussed not only with the TULF, but also with other political parties, and there would be no change in the understanding reached.

So, as I was saying, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had been misled by some interested party. When I explained, he said he would be glad to see those decisions properly implemented. The Indian prime minister has always maintained that matters relating to our internal policies and their implementation are Sri Lanka's responsibility.

We should be thankful to him for that — for accepting our right to make our own policy decisions.

Now, this problem of ours is claimed to be a problem for India as well as for its Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He tells us about certain people in India who call themselves Sri Lankan refugees.

He says that there is no intention to allow them to remain in India and that they should be sent back to Sri Lanka as soon as possible. He says that there should be a suitable atmosphere for them to return to Sri Lanka. India has extended her good offices to help in whatever way possible to create such an atmosphere.

I told the prime minister of India that our president and our government have proposed a system of devolution of power -- a system that would allow all the people of our country to participate and become partners in the government of the country. This is a system that would cover the whole country and not merely the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

I also told him that these proposals were discussed with other political parties and also with the leaders of the TULF. There were various suggestions made by them. Those too were taken into account. Now, there is some progress in negotiations. These proposals -- this system of devolution -- has been worked out in such a way that it conforms to our Constitution. It protects our country's unitary form of government.

I told Mr Gandhi that the TULF will also receive these proposals in a day or two. The Indian Government will also get a copy. They have since received them. When a final decision is taken, our government intends to provide for legislation in line with our constitution and have them implemented. So, when I explained all this to Shri Rajiv Gandhi he was extremely happy. He said he would consider it when he returns to India after the conference in Harare. He was extremely happy that we were discussing these proposals with the TULF also.

There was one other thing that I had to bring to the notice of the prime minister of India. I thought of telling him of the violence, atrocities, and destruction to life and property caused by the terrorists while we were trying to bring about a solution. In fact they are threatening the TULF leaders. Why? Because they had come for discussions. Also those terrorist groups are rejecting these proposals. I told him that their behaviour is causing harm to both countries. It is going to disrupt the peace process -- if this is continued the chances of a negotiated political settlement will be very slim.

Their behaviour is causing harm to themselves, and to all communities -- Sinhala, Tamils, Muslim and Burgher. This shows that they are not interested in a peaceful solution. They are out to destroy our country. They do the damage -- they kill -- they destroy and admit it. From where? Their leaders operate from Tamil Nadu, give instructions from there and send arms and men to commit atrocities here. I told Shri Rajiv Gandhi, that India should warn them to stop these activities. He replied that suitable steps would be taken on his return to India.

He said he would first study our proposals. I told him that these terrorists were opposed to any consultation that did not take into account a merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. As you know, the prime minister of India himself finds it difficult to help us in this matter without the support of Tamil Nadu. That is why he wants us to come to some decision that would at least be acceptable to the TULF.

I told him Sri Lanka is a unitary state. It is a very small country. You can't have a federal system here. Besides, resources at the local level are insufficient to make federalism viable here. This is why our government has proposed a system of devolution of power retaining the unitary nature of our Constitution and the unity and independence of our country, which is the homeland of all those living here as its citizens.

He agreed to consider these matters. It was a very cordial discussion. When I told our president about it, he too was pleased. He informed me of the blasting of the Mannar causeway and suggested that I bring this to the notice of the Indian premier. I did so, at the next opportunity I got. I also told him that I would write to him in detail.

There were two other important reasons for me to write to him. Firstly, there are some who think that India is not supporting us in solving this problem. Secondly, there are some others who think that we are not apprising India about our situation here.

There are many who ask us why we are not requesting India not to harbour these terrorists who are doing all this damage from Indian soil. Well, we have done that not once, but on a number of occasions.

The atrocities committed in Sri Lanka by terrorists living in Tamil Nadu or on their instructions, are no secrets. So, I referred to these also in my letter. I also made it a point to thank Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his government for their assurances of support for the solution of this problem. That too is not a secret. I also repeated our government's request that the terrorists be told to stop their violent activities against Sri Lanka while they stay in India.

As you will see, this letter had nothing that had to be kept secret. You know, the prime minister of India held a press conference at Harare, relating to matters connected with Non-Aligned Movement and the affairs of his country.

When a representative of the Sri Lankan media asked for his views on the situation in our country, the prime minister dwelt on the history of the problem describing the situation as it existed one and half years ago.

I wonder whether we could find any solution to this problem if we were to hark back to what happened in the past.

If we were to spend our time in debate there would be thousands of innocent people who will lose their lives. Public and private property will be destroyed.

To be deaf to the threats of the terrorists living in and operating from Tamil Nadu soil would even endanger the government's peace efforts. So, what is wrong in explaining that fact to the Indian premier? We should all agree, that this is a matter that that should be explained to the people of our two countries. Therefore, I do not think anyone should feel agitated over what Prime Minister Gandhi said at that press conference.

India has its own problems. On the day of that conference, there was the hijacking of a plane resulting in the death of several Indian citizens at Karachi airport.

There were also other international issues that Prime Minister Gandhi had to consider. It was at such a moment that the two questions on Sri Lanka were asked from him.

Whatever the reasons are for his replies to these questions, I am quite confident that Sri Lanka has the assistance of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his government.

Nevertheless, there is one thing we should keep in mind. The Indian premier has to face reality. He has to pay heed to the feelings of Tamil Nadu. It was only the other day that the *Hindu* had reported that the terrorists would accept nothing short of a separate state. There was also a PTI report published during the time we were at Harare that an ex-Army officer, known as Major General Jasvant Singh Bullah was organising an army called the 'Hindustan Front' to support the separatist terrorists against the Sri Lankan Government.

There were good reasons for us to explain to the Indian Government the situation in Sri Lanka and how we feel about terrorists activities in Tamil Nadu affecting us.

That is why I stated so in writing. The people of both countries will not misunderstand us when they know the contents of my letter. Those are the facts. I, therefore, earnestly believe that we will receive the support of India to solve this problem through the political discussions now taking place under the leadership of our president.

Government Protests Canadian Remarks on Envoy

BK051143 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Sep 86

[Text] Sri Lanka has objected to certain libel statements appearing in the Canadian press and on television about Sri Lanka's high commissioner to Canada. The acting minister of foreign affairs, Tyrone Fernando, yesterday summoned the senior official of the Canadian High Commission in Colombo and conveyed to him the concern of the government at the libel statements about General Tissa Weeratunge, alleging human rights violations by him in antiterrorist operations while he was serving the

Sri Lanka Army. Mr. Fernando pointed out that the statements were not accurate and called on the government of Canada to take the appropriate measures in terms of Article 29 of the Vienna Convention to prevent any attack on the personal freedom and dignity of Sri Lanka's high commissioner to Canada.

Further On Protest Letter to U.N. Secretary General
LD101813 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to U.N. Secretary General Javier Peres De Cuellar Wednesday warning that the Islamic Republic of Iran would take deterrent measures against repeated Iraqi violations of international regulation.

The foreign minister also informed the U.N. secretary general of the resumption of Iraqi use of chemical weapons as well as its attacks on Iranian residential areas.

Velayati also warned that the Islamic Republic of Iran would no longer tolerate these Iraqi atrocities.

Bulgarian Minister Confers With Officials

Discusses Oil With Aqazadeh
LD061844 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 6 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA — Visiting Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov conferred with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday.

In the meeting the Bulgarian minister said that his country is willing to purchase more Iranian oil which was agreed to by Aqazadeh.

The two sides stressed the need of strengthening bilateral cooperation and called for expansion of Tehran-Sofia relations.

At the end of the meeting the Bulgarian minister invited Aqazadeh to visit his country which was accepted by the oil minister.

Khristov arrived here Thursday at the head of a delegation.

Confirms Trade With Abedi-Ja'fari
LD071545 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 7 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 7, IRNA — Visiting Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Trade Khristo Khristov met with Iran's Commerce Minister Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari here Saturday where he reaffirmed his country's willingness to expand Tehran-Sofia commercial relations.

Khristov said that Bulgaria is to increase its purchase of Iranian industrial goods including automobiles and minibuses as well as agricultural products such as cotton, lemons, mineral stones, and all kinds of concentrates.

The Bulgarian minister also extended an invitation to the Iranian commerce minister to pay a visit to Sofia.

In response, Abedi-Ja'fari said that reduction in the oil prices has served to assist Iran in diversifying its primarily single-export economy in order to attain self-sufficiency.

But Abedi-Ja'fari noted, Iran's non-oil exports to Bulgaria were still considered small in comparison to their actual potential.

Meets With Musavi
LD081526 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 8 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 8, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Monday that despite economic plots hatched by Iran's enemies, new investments were underway in the country as a result of sound economic planning.

The prime minister speaking in a meeting with the visiting Bulgarian foreign trade minister, Khristo Khristov, further said that stronger ties between Iran and Bulgaria would further introduce economic potentials of the two countries and thus help establishment of fruitful relations in the fields of economy, industry, and electronics.

The Bulgarian minister briefed the prime minister on the results of his talks with Iranian officials describing them as "positive." Khristov who visited the 12th Tehran International Trade Fair, congratulated the Iranian Government and nation for new economic and industrial achievements.

The Bulgarian minister also invited Prime Minister Musavi to visit Bulgaria which he said would further expand mutual relations between the two countries. The invitation was accepted and the visit is due to be paid in an appropriate time.

Seen Off by Zali
NC080758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Sep 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Bulgaria's minister of foreign trade, who came to our country at the head of a delegation, was seen off yesterday evening by Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali.

The Bulgarian foreign trade minister gave an interview to our correspondent before leaving Tehran. In the interview, he expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his trip, and stressed that bilateral relations must be broadened. He said: Talks were held with officials from the Islamic Republic of Iran on such items as automobiles, minibuses, light and heavy industrial goods, and agricultural products. We are returning to Bulgaria completely satisfied, and we hope that the level of Iranian-Bulgarian cooperation, which has risen over the past 3 years, will continue to grow in the future.

In his discussion with our correspondent, Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali examined the results of the Bulgarian delegation's trip to our country, saying: Iran and Bulgaria signed a memorandum covering agreement in industry. As for trade between the two countries, we export minibuses, buses, foundry products, and such agricultural goods as cotton and citrus fruit. (?Forklifts) and other items are to be imported from Bulgaria. The agriculture minister concluded by voicing his satisfaction with this trip, and declared: These visits are a very effective way of deepening bilateral relations.

It should be recalled that during its stay in Iran, the Bulgarian delegation met and held talks with Prime Minister Musavi and with the ministers of agriculture, oil, and heavy industries.

Cabinet Discusses Harare, Gulf War Resolution
LD101343 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Cabinet held a session today chaired by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. In the course of this session, after reviewing important current events in the country, the president, in a speech, described the nonaligned summit's significant agenda and its achievements.

On the basis of our correspondent's report, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati then raised weak and strong points of the nonaligned summit's resolution and said that the articles on the Iraq imposed war against Iran were more moderate than previous resolutions, despite efforts made by Iraq and other countries affiliated to the United States. Velayati added: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept any resolutions unless it is accompanied with [a point] condemning and punishing Iraq as the aggressor.

Montazeri Calls on Iraqi Mojahedin To Escalate Fight
LD101645 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri called on Iraqi Mojahedin to escalate their fight both at home and abroad to topple the dictatorial regime of Saddam Husayn.

The ayatollah said the Ba'thist rulers of the country had imposed a war on both the Iraqi and Iranian nations, and have been maintained in power by the superpowers and the Zionists.

Ayatollah Montazeri made the remarks in a message to the head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hujjat ol-Islam Mohammad Baqer Hakim on the occasion of the martyrdom of a group of Iraqi Mojahedin in Iran's recent Karbala'-II offensive.

The ayatollah said the Iranian Armed Forces along with Iraqi Mojahedin will shortly eliminate this enemy of Koran (Saddam Husayn) and bring the war to an end, and let Iraqi Muslims rule their country and provide Iraqi refugees an opportunity to return to their homeland.

Missile Site Sabotaged
LD101711 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept. 10, IRNA — Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin, serving at the Seventh Naval Division in Umm Qasr, have liberated a computer set from the division's missile site, used for launching ground to sea missiles.

A Mojahedin spokesman told IRNA here Wednesday that following the operation, carried out on September 1st, commanders of the division reported the loss of the computer to senior Iraqi officials.

Iraqi security agents have arrested 150 of the division's personnel in connection with the missing computer, some of whom have been sentenced to death the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, according to the spokesman, another group of Iraqi Mojahedin infiltrated a surface-to-air missile site in Umm Qasr and put sensitive equipment of the base out of operation.

As a result of the sabotage, the spokesman said, a missile fire from the site went astray and hit the officers club of the base, damaging it substantially and killing at least 20 Ba'thist officers.

The Muslim Mojahedin will continue their operations until the downfall of the Ba'thist regime, the spokesman said.

Further Reports on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique 2,590
LD101619 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 10, IRNA — Twenty-eight Iranian civilians were martyred and 26 others wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed Robat Township in Sardasht and a village in Mahabad (both in W. Azarbayjan Prov.) Tuesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,590 said that Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs in Sheykh Salleh, western fronts, Tuesday.

Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, three trucks, three engineering vehicles, and some tanks destroyed throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Tuesday, the communique said.

The communique said that Iranian Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi positions in Hajj 'Umrān and Panjwin, north-western fronts, Tuesday inflicting considerable casualties and losses on them. Enemy engineering operations in Hajj 'Umrān were also checked.

A convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar, western fronts, Tuesday, was crushed by Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that exchange of fire continued in the western fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Qasr-e Shirin as a result of which at least 10 Iraqi gun emplacements and observation posts were destroyed.

Iranian gendarmerie forces pounded Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Tuesday killing or wounding a number of

enemy soldiers and destroying at least three of their vehicles. Some other Iraqi vehicles were also damaged, according to the communique.

The Joint Staff Communique said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three enemy engineering vehicles destroyed in Mehran when they were subjected to Iranian artillery fire.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of enemy positions set ablaze in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Tuesday.

Iranian artillery fire pounded Iraqi armoured units in Yebis, Jofeyr, and Nahr-Anbar operational theaters Tuesday halting their operations and destroying some enemy tanks, said the communique.

All movements of Iraqi motorized units were checked in Maymak and Halaleh, southern fronts, on Tuesday.

Iraqi Plane Downed

LD101644 Tehran IRNA in English 1631 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., Sept. 10, IRNA — An Iraqi warplane was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire here Wednesday. The plane crashed over Mayan District, some 50 kms west of here.

Meanwhile, twenty civilians were wounded when Iraqi warplanes raided an industrial unit here Wednesday. Some damage was inflicted on the unit.

The War Information Headquarters (WIH) said here Tuesday that Iraqi crimes would not be left unpunished and called on Iraqi people to evacuate areas near military, economic and industrial centers throughout Iraq.

Iraqi Ships Fired Upon

LD101803 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept. 10, IRNA — Naval units of the 7th Iraqi Division sustained some losses near the Al-Bakr oil platform Tuesday night when they came under fire by naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Reports reaching here from the northern Persian Gulf area said that some units of the Iraqi naval vessels, attempting to reach the Al-Bakr platform, southern Iraq, fled the area sustaining losses when they were hit by the fire of naval units of the revolution's guards.

Iraqi Artillery Hits Homes, Hospitals

LD101807 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 10 Sep 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Sept. 10, IRNA — Reports reaching here from the southern Iranian port city of Abadan indicated that Iraqi long-range artillery fire damaged 30 residential units and three hospitals there, as well as caused fire to the palm groves across the Arvand river over the past 24 hours.

The report has also quoted the governor of Abadan as noting that the Baghdad government, in its repeated violation of international regulations, has continuously shelled the city during its imposed war.

These shellings, added the governor, have intensified following the successful Karbala'-II and Karbala'-III offensives of the Islamic combatants. The escalation of the attacks, he went on, indicates that the Iraqi regime resorts to such barbarity after any defeat of its forces in order to cover up such failures.

Abadan's governor further said that international bodies and those claiming to be human rights defenders, have kept silent vis-a-vis the Baghdad crimes for the past six years, having showed no reaction so as to prevent the Iraqi rulers from committing such crimes.